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THE LEAGUE'S BUSINESS

League Publications Basis of Court Brief.—Henry S. Manley, assistant attorney general of New York state, has recently made a compilation of arguments in support of the constitutionality of excess condemnation. This has been filed by Hamilton Ward, the attorney-general of New York, in the case of the *City of Yonkers v. The M. E. D. Corporation*. Various excerpts from addresses at National Municipal League conventions are found in the compilation. Our book on "Excess Condemnation" by Robert E. Cushman is also liberally quoted. Lawson Purdy's pamphlet on "Why We Need Excess Condemnation," which appeared as a supplement to the NATIONAL MUNICIPAL REVIEW in July, 1923, is included as an appendix to the booklet. This use of our publications is proof of their value and is a real compliment both to the authors and to the publishers.

✱

Flowers for the Living.—We have received a considerable number of complimentary letters with reference to the National Conference on Improving Government held in Chicago on November 12, 13 and 14. We value most of all, however, the following comment from a staff member of a national organization who attends scores of conventions every year:

"Coming from one who must attend a great many conventions, I hope you will realize it is a compliment coming directly from the heart when I say that the Chicago conference was without exception the most interesting and, for me, instructive meeting of this kind that I have attended. I think you and your associates are to be congratulated highly upon every phase of it—program, character of speakers, vigorous discussion, arrangements, etc."

✱

The Aftermath of Convention Publicity.—Our Chicago convention received more newspaper publicity than any other of our previous meetings. Newspaper clippings are still coming into the office. By the middle of December we had already received newspaper clippings totaling over 4000 column inches, all of which were based on news reports of convention meetings and addresses.

Nation-wide interest has been aroused in the subject of county management as a result of our convention meeting on that subject. Napa County, California, is now taking steps to reorganize its county government and is seriously considering the county manager plan. A member of the Virginia legislature is planning to introduce to the 1930 session a bill to provide a bona fide and thorough going plan of management for the counties of that state.

By provisions of Act 686 of the 1929 session of California, a County Home Rule Commission was created. The Legislative Counsel of California, located at Sacramento, has been designated to work in connection with the Commission. The Commission is now seriously studying county home rule and county management.

Our committee on county manager plan, headed by Professor John A. Fairlie, of the University of Illinois, with Professor Paul W. Wager, of the University of North Carolina, as secretary, now has in preparation a recommended model county manager law. The committee met in New Orleans in connection with the annual convention of the American Political Science Association. At the meeting, further progress was made in consideration of the proposed model law.

RUSSELL FORBES, *Secretary*.